

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/671,050

Applicant(s)

MAINIERI ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Yewebdar T Tadesse

1734

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/16/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 25 September 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 11-12 have been cancelled in the reply filed on December 16, 2004.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-10 have been found allowable over the prior art of record.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Seiler et al (US 5,296,031) discloses (see Figs 1, 3-4 and column 3, lines 36-42) a powder spray coating system including a paint application booth (cabin 2,4) having a conveyor (16) for conveying parts to be painted and a powder collection system (bottom portion of the spray coating cabin), the conveyor comprising spaced continuous parallel first and second moving belts (28) and rollers (130,134) for supporting belts. However, Seiler et al lacks teaching first and second housings, spaced from each other, enclosing a plurality of spaced first and second rollers respectively in sealed relation. Brice (US 4,257,345) discloses (see Figs 1 and 4) a powder coating installation comprising first and second belts (60,102) and rollers (66,68) disposed within the enclosure (16). However, in Brice the first and second belts are not spaced and both belts are disposed on same rollers (66,68). Williams et al (US 5,023,116) discloses (see Figs 2-3 and columns 3-4, lines 52-68 and 1-8 respectively) a sealed housing enclosing the belts (72) and rollers (74) in filtering the recirculated air. Yet, In Williams et al the conveyor system is used as part of a filtering unit to recirculate air, not to convey parts.

Furthermore, the conveyor belts are not provided within the painting booth. East (US 5,642,800) and Waddle (US 2,249,588) disclose (see Fig 1 each) rollers (10 and 31 respectively) provided with sealed bearings to prevent the lubricating grease from coming in contact with the conveyor belt. Coen et al (US 6,550,609) discloses (see Fig 1) a housing (sleeve 20) creating a perfect seal for roller 12, preventing impurities from getting inside the roller. Prior art of record does not disclose or suggest a conveyor for conveying parts to be painted through powder paint booth, comprising first and second housing, spaced from each other, enclosing a plurality of spaced first and second rollers respectively in sealed relation.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yewebdar T Tadesse whose telephone number is (571) 272-1238. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00 AM-4: 30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Fiorilla can be reached on (571) 272-1187. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 1734

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Lewellen P. T.
YTT

ca 700
CHRIS FIORILLA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
AU 1734